



## STATUS REPORT

# Progress and Improvements

DPW BUREAU/OFFICE Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant (Back River)

Date 8/5/2022

Parameters	Week ending 7/22/22	Week ending 7/29/22	Permit limit	Meeting Requirement
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	<5.0 mg/l	<5.0 mg/l	15 mg/l	Yes
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)	<2.0 mg/l	<2.0 mg/l	15 mg/l	Yes
Total phosphorus (TP)	0.11 mg/l	<0.10 mg/l	0.30 mg/l	Yes
Ammonia (NH3)	0.1 mg/l	<0.1 mg/l	3.0 mg/l	Yes
Total nitrogen (TN)	3.7 mg/l	1.8 mg/l	4.0 mg/l	Yes
E-coli	4 MPN*/100 ml	5 MPN*/100 ml	126 MPN*/100 ml	Yes

\*MPN = Most Potable Number

\* Data based on preliminary numbers

## Personnel Updates

Since our last report, we have made several strides in recruitment, while simultaneously investing in training and professional development of existing staff. Notably, we have made a few strategic hires in the Operations and Maintenance Teams at Back River. In addition to these efforts, the Bureau continues to solicit referrals from multiple organizations (Veterans Administration, ROCA, Park Heights Renaissance, and Jump Start) to fill the immediate Maintenance Technician positions.

DPW has hired an Operations Engineer for Back River, Mr. Timothy Simmons. Mr. Simmons received his Chemical Engineering Degree with Biochemical and Environmental concentrations from Tuskegee University. He comes to us from The City of Bowie Wastewater Treatment Plant. He has a strong emphasis on health and safety in work practices while remaining attentive to the environment. He has participated in a variety of training courses, project teams, and leadership exercises that have allowed for a broad resource base on which he built his career.

Currently, Maryland Environmental Service has four (4) operators and one (1) supervisor at Back River to support approximately 80 City operators. DPW looks forward to the continued support from MES, through increasing the number of operators from 4 to 15.

## Maintenance Updates

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The Maintenance Team will be holding interviews within the next week to fill several positions. Additionally, DPW has scheduled Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO) Trainings in August, which will provide technicians with proper safety protocols for pump maintenance and safeguard workers from hazardous energy releases. We have also scheduled Forklift Training for relevant personnel.

## Summary

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DPW has made substantial progress toward full compliance at Back River. More specifically, suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, total phosphorus, ammonia, and total nitrogen have decreased significantly since March 2022. **All parameters are currently under permit limits from preliminary July reports and Back River has maintained compliance for the past 10 weeks.**

DPW recognizes that Back River is a valuable asset to the Baltimore region and we are excited about the path forward to sustained compliance.